



2026 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY UPDATES

Behavioral Health Legislative Updates from the Indiana Statehouse

Stay Informed. Take action.

February 3, 2026

2026 Indiana General Assembly

Mid-Session Report

The legislative calendar had been modified first because of the redistricting conversation, and now again due to Indiana's winter weather. Nonetheless, we

have now concluded work in the House of Origin and look forward to the Second House. Mental Health America of Indiana has been on the front lines of behavioral health advocacy in the Indiana General Assembly with priority legislation noted below.

Also affected by the legislative calendar has been **Hoosier Idol**, Mental Health America's premier legislative event. The four legislative Caucuses will compete for the title of 2026 Hoosier Idol, now set for February 10th. If you have not yet registered for Hoosier Idol, please do so ASAP as **registration closes today, February 3, 2026**. You can register using the Hoosier Idol promo below, or go to:

Hoosier Idol Registration

Priority Bills:

HB 1296: Mental Health Services

HB 1296 Mental Health Services (Bascom, Barrett, Goss-Reaves, Porter) passed the House Public Health Committee unanimously and 92-1 on 3rd Reading of the House. Senator Brett Clark is the Senate Sponsor.

FSSA is to certify integrated reentry and correction support programs. Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support (IRACS) was developed by Mental Health America of Indiana and is a first of its kind (in the nation) model that was piloted in 5 Indiana County jails--now expanded to 11 Counties. This was one of the programs highlighted by Chief Justice Rush in her State of the Judiciary.

IRACs embeds certified peer recovery coaches inside county correctional facilities to provide person-centered recovery support. IRACs Recovery Coaches are formally trained in operations inside criminal justice systems with a specialized curriculum developed and facilitated by Mental Health America's IRACs staff. Services are provided in the jail and continue for 30 days post release with a warm handoff to local community providers. IRACs services include individual and group peer support offering recovery planning, access to treatment and behavioral health services, resource navigation, reentry coordination, and recovery resource linkage.

In addition, Recovery Residences that use the title of Recovery Residences are to register with DMHA. Recovery Residences are certainly a critical part of the treatment/recovery continuum, but across Indiana, numerous documented incidents demonstrate the risks posed by uncertified, unregistered, or unregulated recovery residences. Without a centralized registry, the state cannot effectively track these homes, differentiate them from rapidly expanding group homes, or ensure safe environments for individuals in recovery.

Contact your Senator to support HB 1296 by going to:

Action Alert: HB 1296

SB 91: Syringe Exchange Program

SB 91 Syringe Exchange Program (Crider, Charbonneau, Clark) passed Senate Health Committee 10-2 and 33-13 on Third Reading. Representative Clere and Lawson are the House Sponsors.

The bill extends the Syringe Exchange Program beyond the current expiration date of July 1, 2026 to 2036. Local health departments use local, federal, and philanthropic funding for Syringe Exchange Program expenses. This bill allows the legislative body of the municipality or the executive body of the county to impose a syringe exchange ratio requirement on a syringe exchange program

that operates within the jurisdiction of the municipality or county. It amends the duties of a qualified entity that operates a Program and prohibits a qualified entity that operates a Program from providing chemical reagents or precursors.

SB 4: Various Fiscal Matters

SB 4 Various Fiscal Matters (Mishler) passed Senate Committee 8-5 and 48-0 on Third Reading.

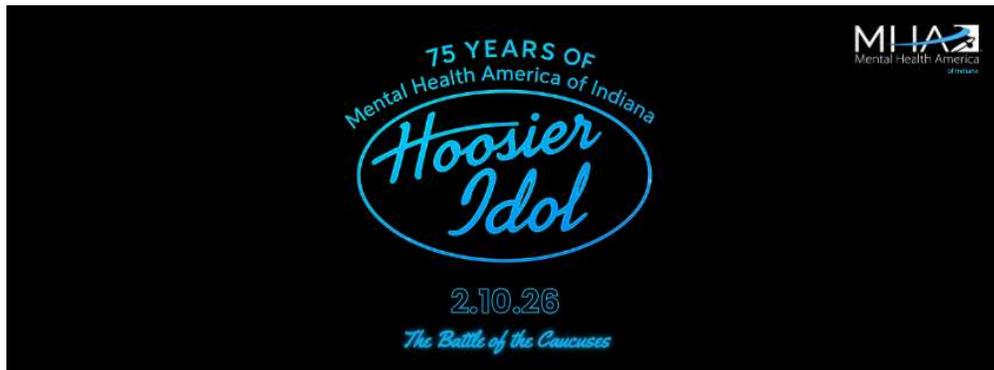
Would make changes in the local property tax allocation to Community Mental Health Centers (effective July 1, 2028). It would allow a county to meet CMHC funding requirements from any funding source in lieu of or in combination with property taxes, excluding federal funds. It adds provisions concerning the location where certain CMHC services may be provided and specifies additional items that are required to be reported by a CMHC.

Other Bills MHAI is Following:

To stay informed about the bills MHAI is tracking and sign up for future Advocacy Alerts, please see below:

[Bill List](#)

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Act Fast: Registration Ends Today!

You're invited to attend **Hoosier Idol 2026: The Battle of the Caucuses**, an inspiring evening where talent and purpose come together. Please note that **registration closes today, February 3, 2026.**

 **Event Date:** February 10, 2026

 **Time:** 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

 **Location:** Indiana Roof Ballroom, Indianapolis, IN

Presented by Mental Health America of Indiana, Hoosier Idol features performances by members of the Indiana General Assembly as judged by the four Caucus Leaders. More than an evening of exceptional entertainment, the event is a meaningful celebration of recovery, resilience, and the power of community. Your attendance helps elevate behavioral health awareness and supports programs and initiatives that create lasting, positive impact across the state of Indiana.

Reserve your seat by EOB 02/03/26 to ensure your participation in this memorable event.



For those interested in further supporting this important mission, **sponsorship opportunities are available** and play a vital role in making Hoosier Idol and its work possible.

We look forward to welcoming you and making Hoosier Idol 2026 an evening to remember.

[Learn More About Sponsorship](#)

[Hoosier Idol Registration](#)

